IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Akira Sekine, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: May 17, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF

CHEMICAL MATERIALS

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 9, please re-write lines 17-19 as follows:

Figs. 2(a) through 2(d) illustrate examples of the data structure of each database in the system for comprehensive management of chemical substances in one embodiment of the present invention;

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified application has been amended to to clarify the description of figure 2. Favorable action is solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Dated: May 17, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Mark J. Thronson

Registration No.: 33,082

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 775-4742

Attorneys for Applicant

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

[Fig. 2 illustrates Examples (a to d)] Figs. 2(a) through 2(d) illustrate examples of the data structure of each database in the system for comprehensive management of chemical substances in one embodiment of the present invention;